



Board of County Commissioners  
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ACCOUNTABILITY · INTEGRITY · RESPECT

1101 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Durango, CO 81301

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Lauren Boebert  
United States House of Representatives  
1713 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Authorizing Legislation for Upper Colorado and San Juan Endangered Fish Recovery Programs

Dear Representative Boebert,

We appreciate your past support for the Upper Colorado and San Juan Endangered Fish Recovery Programs, including your previous co-sponsorship of H. R. 5001. The legislation (P. L. 106 – 392 as amended) authorizing federal cost-sharing for the recovery programs through appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation expires on September 30, 2023.

With that in mind, we thank you for your efforts over the last several months to develop legislation reauthorizing federal cost-sharing for the two recovery programs. We support the introduction of the reauthorizing legislation at the earliest possible date. Our understanding is that the legislation authorizes continued funding for 7 years, with \$50 million for capital projects for the recovery programs and \$70 million for annual funding, both to be provided by appropriations to the Bureau of Reclamation.

The recovery programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance for 2,500 water projects in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The programs are also engaged in recovery of threatened or endangered fish species: bonytail, Colorado pikeminnow, humpback chub and razorback sucker. Those efforts are successful in preserving and moving the species towards recovery.

We are concerned that the \$70 million for annual funding is below the amount requested by participants in the two recovery programs. However, we are aware that the current rules of the House of Representatives limit the amount to be authorized in compliance with the “pay-go” rule. We will continue working with you and other representatives of the four states’ delegations to address this issue.

Once again, thanks for your support of these vital programs.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Marsha Porter-Norton  
Chair